

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—Catholic Statistics

According to the 'Catholic Directory' there are 94 Catholic peers and baronets in the United Kingdom; 8 Catholic M.P.'s for England and 74 Catholic M.P.'s for Ireland; and 70 Catholic knights.

Westminster Schools

A Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop of Westminster, read in the Catholic churches of the archdiocese on Sunday, January 13, gave a report on the needs of the Catholic schools. A commission recently appointed by his Grace found on inquiry that a sum of £87,000 would be needed to renovate and bring up the Catholic schools of the archdiocese to a standard of efficiency required by the London County Council as the local education authority from all schools receiving grants through its agency. His Grace appeals to his flock to make every possible effort to raise the necessary funds to meet the emergency, which is the most serious that has arisen since 1870.

FRANCE—The Irish College

A deputation of Irish Bishops has been appointed by the Irish Bishops' Standing Committee to wait on Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and put before him the case of the Irish College, Paris. It is hoped that by vigorous diplomatic intervention the existence of the college may still be maintained.

Law not Applicable to the Case

A telegram from Toulon to the 'Liberte' (Paris) states that the Abbe Venel has been acquitted of the charge of celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on December 16 without having given the necessary notice, the Court expressing the opinion that neither the law of 1905 nor that of 1881 was applicable to the case.

Omitting the Name of God

A distinguished correspondent of the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal' calls attention to the latest indication which the French Government has given of its utterly atheistical spirit. This is in the change which it has ordered in the device on the coinage. The five-franc used to bear the device, 'Dieu protege la France.' By the decree of the Minister of Finance this mention of God is to be omitted in future. M. Louis Passy, who, as the oldest member, presided at the opening meeting of the Chamber, referred in the following terms to this proclamation of Atheism as isolating France from the whole world:—'The time is not yet arrived in which the nations of the earth will renounce the idea and the name of God. The Israelites will continue to invoke the Eternal. The Mussulmans will continue to proclaim "Allah Kibir." "God is Great." The Christian races will continue to sing, "God Save the King," or "Domine Salvam fac Republicam." And all those who see shining across the infinites of space those lights of Hope and Justice that nothing shall extinguish will repeat in the depth of their hearts, "God protect France."'

ITALY—A Plot that failed

Though the French Premier professes to ignore the Pope (says the 'Catholic Times'), it has been pretty definitely ascertained that French official influence was employed in an attempt to evoke Italian sympathy for the anti-Christian campaign in France. When a demonstration was made by Italian Social Democrats in favor of the French Government's policy, rumors to the effect that M. Barrere, the French Ambassador at Rome, knew something of the origin of the proceedings went around in Italian Parliamentary circles. Senor Giolitti, the Premier, enquired of the ambassador whether he would give him authority to deny the rumors. M. Barrere is said to have replied that the reports which had been circulated were misleading, but to have privately admitted that people had called at the embassy to discuss the advisableness of a demonstration and that views had been exchanged on the subject. The inference was drawn by Italian Parliamentarians and others that he had been endeavoring to start in Italy an agitation which would be not only anti-clerical, but also anti-monarchical, and the result has been to cool considerably the friendly relations which existed between Italy and France. The Italian people are not admirers of the tyranny exercised by the French Government against the Church.

ROME—The Holy See and the Hague Conference

The Holy See has taken no steps to obtain representation at The Hague Peace Conference, but in Catholic countries there is a strong feeling that an invitation should be sent to his Holiness.

In Many Languages

The students of the Propaganda, Rome, on Thursday, January 10, gave a most interesting entertainment in honor of the jubilee of the priesthood of Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of the Propaganda. Poems were recited in thirty-three different languages, and ten of the reciters were British subjects. Cardinals Gotti, Merry del Val, and several other members of the Sacred College were present. Cardinal Gotti himself converses with equal ease in Latin, French, and Italian. He taught the nautical sciences in the Preparatory Naval College, and some of the most distinguished Italian admirals were among his pupils. He is a brilliant mathematician. A quiet, unassuming man, he leads a saintly life. 'A New Zealander, Mr. Cecil Morkane (writes the Rome correspondent of the Sydney 'Freeman's Journal'), figured in the polyglot academic entertainment given at the Urban College in honor of Cardinal Gotti.'

Distinguished Visitors

On January 10 Lord and Lady Aberdeen paid a visit to the Irish Franciscan Church of St. Isidore, where national and patriotic memories and memorials abound. Thence their Excellencies drove to the Scots' College, where they were welcomed by Monsignor Fraser, the rector, whose kind aid they had enjoyed on the occasion of their audience with the Sovereign Pontiff. Under the rector's guidance they saw the entire college and its monuments. The four paintings of Jameson, of Aberdeen, and the original proclamation of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' posted on the market-cross of Edinburgh in 1745 principally arrested the attention of the noble visitors.

SCOTLAND—A Generous Benefactor

Some time ago the Right Rev. Mgr. Lennon, of Liverpool, a generous benefactor to Catholic charitable institutions, and now retired, made an offer to contribute £1000 towards paying off the heavy debt of about \$17,000 upon Nazareth House, Glasgow. The offer was conditional, however, upon a like sum being raised by the beginning of the present year, and it is gratifying to know that the good Sisters have been enabled to fulfil the stipulation.

UNITED STATES—Meeting of protest

Protestants as well as Catholics attended the great meeting held on December 30, at Washington, U.S.A., to protest against the persecuting policy of the French Government, and a strong speech was made by the Rev. John Van Schaick, a Protestant minister. The Rev. Dr. D. J. Stafford, in his speech, expressed the belief that the French Government had gone mad.

Death of a Marist Father

The death occurred recently at Litcher, La., of the Very Rev. J. B. Descreux, a prominent member of the Marist Order. Father Descreux founded the first Marist College in the United States. When the Marists established their House of Studies at Washington, he was appointed Superior. In 1900 he was made Provincial of the American houses.

Four Brothers at the Altar

Four brothers celebrated Solemn High Mass at St. Anna's Church, Baltimore, on Christmas morning. The celebrant was Rev. Carroll C. Smyth, who was ordained December 22. His assistant was his older brother, Rev. Thomas G. Smyth, pastor of St. Stephen's Church of Washington, who also preached the sermon. Rev. James A. Smyth, of St. Patrick's Church of Washington, was the deacon, and Rev. John A. Smyth, now a student at St. Mary's Seminary, was subdeacon.

UNITED STATES—To Help the French Clergy

An offer of pecuniary assistance to the French clergy from the Catholic clergy of Louisiana has been sent to Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris. The offer was made in a letter written by Archbishop Bleck of New Orleans to accompany a memorial to Cardinal Richard, signed by every Catholic priest in Louisiana. 'So as to give these expressions of sympathy a practical and substantial character,' Archbishop Bleck said, 'let me add that the clergy of Louisiana is ready at the least notice from your Eminence to help pecuniarily, within means, in the maintenance of the French clergy.'

Reopening of Churches

Two of the large churches in San Francisco that were partly destroyed by the earthquake and fire of last May were reopened on Sunday, December 23, with elaborate ceremonies. They were St. Brigid's Church, Van Ness avenue and Broadway, and St. Ig-